(b) how many high level delegations have visited China during the last two years;

(c) what is being done to reinforce our relations with China; and

(d) what is the response of China to our efforts of strengthening our friendly relations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) India and China have maintained a high level bilateral regional and global dialogue on issues in recent years. From China, the Premier, Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference, two Vice Premiers and several Ministers have visited India since 1991. From India, the President, Prime Minister, Vice President and several Union Ministers have visited China in the same period.

(b) In 1993 and 1994, seventeen high level visits to China have taken place.

(c) and (d) As a result of joint efforts by both countries India-China relations have improved steadily in the last few years. Bilateral trade reached US $ 895 million in 1994 as compared to US $ 675 million in 1993. A number of India-China collaborations are in operation in both countries and others are in the process of being set up. Border trade has been opened at two points in UP and Himachal Pradesh respectively, and further points are being discussed. Exchanges in areas such as science and technology, agriculture, space, social welfare, coal, steel, audit, civil, service training and personnel management are growing. Festivals of China and India were conducted in each others countries. The situation along the India-China border is peaceful.

Indo-Pak talks on inspection of nuclear facilities

5462. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item captioned "Pak for talks with India on nuclear inspection", which was published in 'The Hindustan Times' dated the 19th April, 1995, on the issue of opening nuclear facilities for international inspection;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what is the reaction of Government thereto particularly on promotion of nuclear non-proliferation in South Asia?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Government have seen media reports quoting Pakistan Foreign Minister as saying that the "issue of opening nuclear facilities for international inspection is a bileteral issue which Pakistan is prepared to sit down and discuss with India."

(c) The reported proposal by Pakistan is not now. Pakistan's proposal to discuss nuclear non-proliferation in a bilateral context have been consistently rejected by India. Government are aware that such proposals are often made by Pakistan in order to divert international attention away from Pakistan's clandestine weapons-oriented 'nuclear' programme.

पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं की कमी

5463. श्री अजीत जोगी :
श्री मूलचन्द्र मीणा :

क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या देश में भोपाल तथा अन्य क्षेत्रीय पासपोर्ट कार्यालयों में पासपोर्ट पुस्तिकाओं की कमी है ; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस स्थिति को सुधारने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या-क्या कदम उठाय जा रहे हैं ?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री आर०एल० भाटिया): (क) जी, नहीं ।

(ख) प्रश्न नहीं उठता ।